

## **Tonto Basin Community Meeting 6-5-2018**

Meeting Start: 5:00 PM

Meeting End: 6:40 PM

38 Residents attended

County: Supervisor Humphrey and Terry Links

---

### **Gila County:**

- Supervisor Humphrey gave introductions.
- Supervisor Humphrey went over the Forest closure and current fire restrictions. He reminded residents to clear brush from around their homes and make sure they had a safe fire break perimeter.
- Supervisor updated residents on Public Works schedule of road repairs to County roads in the area. Let residents know that work on roads has slowed down due to the fire danger but will resume once fire season has passed.
- Supervisor went over the total numbers from the traffic counters that had been in the area. Explained that the information gathered on traffic was key to funds being allocated for road work and repairs.
- Supervisor Humphrey explained the County emergency notification system, Everbridge, and handed out sign-up sheets.
- Supervisor let residents know that Legal Aid is now available to Gila County residents and handed out fliers.
- Supervisor asked if residents would mind moving the meetings to either Mondays or Wednesdays. Residents responded that Wednesday was Cowboy Church and they would get back to him on changing the meetings to Mondays. The July meeting will still be the first Tuesday in July and the issue of changing days will be discussed again then.
- Residents asked if Supervisor Humphrey could do anything about Arroyo Water Company Inc. turning off water to residents without notice. Supervisor stated that as a privately held company, Gila County could not force Arroyo Water to notify residents prior to an outage. Contact information for Arroyo Water is as follows;  
Arroyo Water Company Inc.  
1400 N. Beeline Hwy  
Payson, AZ 85541  
928-474-5556
- A resident further stated that the water issues in the area were complicated due to people buying land with wells that they did not check the history on, or wells that are not registered.
- Resident Bill Brown stated that if someone needed water, in an emergency, they were welcome to come to his ranch and get water.
- Residents asked if the brush pit by the lake can be cleaned as it is full and folks are dumping brush around the perimeter. Steve Sullivan of ADOT responded that the pit will be taken care of and that folks let him know when it needs attention so he can see

to it. Kelly Jardin of USFS pointed out that the brush pit that is open and being maintained is the one by the dump station. Kelly said that the one near the lake isn't officially open and it was intended to be used by USFS when they cut brush. Kelly stated that after fire season the USFS will get the pit burned and ready for use.

- One resident brought up the problems with Verizon service in the area. Service is particularly bad on weekends and holidays when the Lake is being used by out of towners. She stated she had contacted Verizon and they told her the towers were overloaded and that impacted service. She stated that it is a safety issue as she was not able to use her phone at all and would not be able to contact emergency responders in the event of an emergency. Supervisor responded that he had been in contact with Verizon and had even drafted a letter with the Sheriff's Department to Verizon. Verizon's response was that they could not promise improvements. Supervisor let residents know Representative Paul Gosar is working with local officials to bring reliable broadband service to our rural areas.
- A resident asked if water could be sprayed on a dirt road near her home as the dust had become a serious issue. Supervisor let her know he is working with Steve Sanders of Public Works to get a palliative that can be applied to dirt roads to mitigate the dust problem.
- A resident asked what the minimum altitude was for Air Force aircraft flying over a residential area. Consensus from SO and TBFD was that the legal altitude was 500 feet. However, if residents have a complaint they can contact the Air Force and let them know the pilots are in violation of the FAA altitude restriction.

### **Steve Sullivan - ADOT**

- Steve reminded residents not to dump oleander. It is poisonous to cattle, deer and all livestock. If someone sees oleander that has been dumped, please contact Steve or Kelly so that they can remove it.
- Steve asked residents to contact him with their concerns and not to stop. Steve explained that complaints he could elevate, generated funds for needed repairs in the Tonto Basin area.
- When complaining, Steve asked that residents include the amount of traffic that is weekenders. RV's, trucks pulling trailers, boats, etc. all damage the roads more than regular vehicle traffic.
- Steve let the ranchers know he is aware of the bad condition of the fences. He is working to get inmate crews out to repair the fences. He also stated that ADOT will be installing some cattle guards after fire season.

### **Stormi Ewing – Tonto Basin Fire Department**

- Stormi voiced concerns about rural addressing. She stated that the rural addressing signs are either down, faded to the point of being unreadable, or missing altogether. Stormi stated she has had a lot of difficulty contacting anyone in the rural addressing department. She further stated that Red Hill Road is in dire need of repairs and is a hazard to travel on with an ambulance or fire truck.

- Stormi also let residents know there have been a few dyke breaks. She stated that the trailer parks are too close to the creek and will flood if the dyke breaks. She reminded people to be aware and watch for flooding.

### **Carl Melford – Gila County Emergency Services**

- Carl explain the usefulness of Everbridge. Last year Everbridge was being utilized by 600 homes in Gila County. This year the number has grown to 16,000. There are 21,000 total homes in Gila County. Carl is pleased that we can reach so many residents with emergency information. Carl gave the example of a recent fire / evacuation. Within three (3) minutes Carl was able to notify 9,000 residents of the situation.
- Carl gave residents information on the potable water issue. With the drought causing wells to dry up, Carl gave the name and contact information of a company Gila County has used to purchase potable water. The contact information is as follows;  
Jim's Water Service  
480-969-1882
- Steve Sullivan asked if Everbridge was connected to ADOT traffic control. Carl and Steve arranged to make that connection furthering the County's ability to keep residents up to date on any emergency.
- Carl also let everyone know he is researching who is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the dykes. He has a meeting set up with Kathleen Tucker and will reach out to NRCS for additional input.

### **Kelley Jardin - USFS**

- Kelley said that to date we have been very lucky regarding fires. The largest fire thus far was 100 acres. Kelley recommended that if you have outdoor work to do, do it early and wet the area down in advance. According to the testing USFS has been doing, the probability of brush ignition is 100%. Fuel moisture is at a record low.
- Kelley let resident know the transfer station will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Kelley reminded folks that the current forest closure area is Hwy 188 to Hwy 87 to the north shore of the lake and back to the bridge.
- Stage 2 fire restrictions are in effect. Kelley stated that some of the area back-up had been lost due to the fires up north, but that there are plenty of resources available including a 20-person Hot Shot Crew.

**Gila County Sheriff's Department – Sgt. Don Engler**

- Sgt. Engler announced he will be the new supervisor in the Tonto Basin / Roosevelt area.
- Sgt. Engler let residents know that over the Memorial Day weekend he had additional Officers available due to grant funding and had Posse members in the area to assist.
- YTD the department has received 289 calls. They have issued 110 violation warnings and completed 26 water rescues.
- Sgt. Engler stated the Sheriff's Department has a policy of zero tolerance concerning anyone violating the current fire restrictions.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM**